TheComicRack

MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS
PRESENTS
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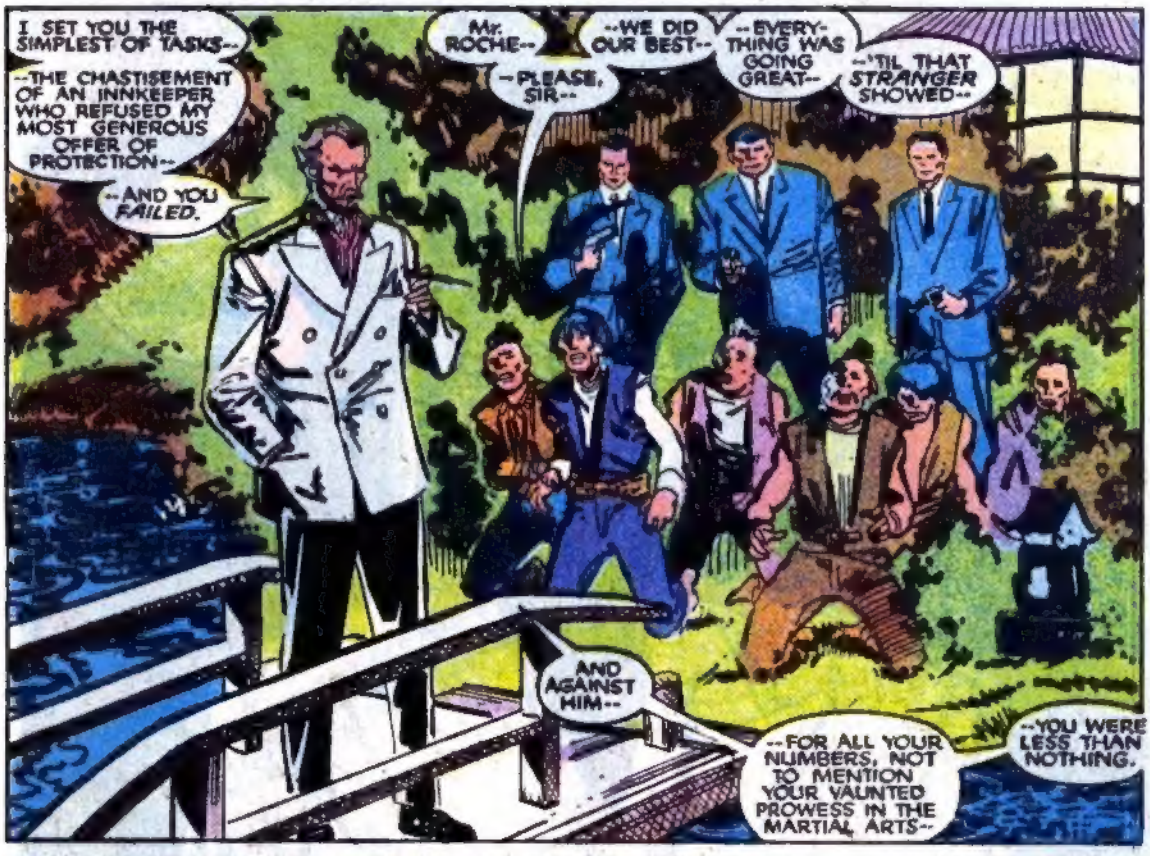
AUTHORITY

SAVE the TIGER
STARRING
WOLVERINE
THE BAD GUY!
ON THE EXCLUSIVE, MONIED HEIGHTS, OVERLOOKING THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN SEAPORT CITY OF MADRIPOOR...
YOUNG GENTLE-MEN--
--I AM DISPLEASED!


I SET YOU THE SIMPLEST OF TASKS--
--THE CHASTISEMENT OF AN INNKEEPER WHO REFUSED MY MOST GENEROUS OFFER OF PROTECTION--
--AND YOU FAILED.
Mr. ROCHE--
--PLEASE, SIR--
--WE DID OUR BEST--
--EVERY-THING WAS GOING GREAT--
--'TIL THAT STRANGER SHOWED--
AND AGAINST HIM--
--FOR ALL YOUR NUMBERS, NOT TO MENTION YOUR VAUNTED PROWESS IN THE MARTIAL ARTS--
--YOU WERE LESS THAN NOTHING.

YOU ARE MY HANDS, THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF MY STRENGTH.
IF YOU LOSE RESPECT--
--SO ALSO DO I.

GIVE US ANOTHER CHANCE, SIR!
WE'LL DO BETTER!!
THAT REMAINS TO BE PROVEN.
I HAVE ALREADY ENGAGED AN ENFORCER TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

IF YOU DEFEAT HIM...
--YOU MAY REMAIN IN MY SERVICE.

HIS NAME IS RAZORFIST.
THE DUEL IS TO THE DEATH.
BEGIN.
ONE GUY.
WE CAN TAKE HIM EASY!
WE COULDN'T TAKE THE OTHER GUY.
SHUDDUP, FOOL.
LOOKIT, THE GUY'S A FREAK!
HE'S GOT NO HA
AHRRA
HGH!
SLASZSH
KAIEIE!

Urgk-gk
THWAM
SHOK
MY LORD MY LORD MY LORD
THE GANG--
--SLAUGHTERED--
--IN A HANDFUL OF SECONDS.
THAT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME!
YOU'RE GONNA BE MY TICKET OUTTA HERE, ROCHE!
OR I'LL GUT YOU WHERE YOU STAND!

NO...
...YOU WON'T!
OWHW!
KRAK
BUT IN ANOTHER SENSE, YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT.
I SHALL INDEED BE YOUR...
..."TICKET OUTTA HERE"--
--FROM THIS WORLD...
...TO THE NEXT.
SNAP
LET US PRAY...
...FOR BETTER LUCK...
...AND A MORE FRUITFUL LIFE...
SPLASH
...IN YOUR NEXT INCARNATION.
YOUR DOSSIER--AND REPUTATION--ARE NOT EXAGGERATED, RAZORFIST. I TRUST YOU CAN DO AS WELL AGAINST THE STRANGER MY FORMER EMPLOYEES ENCOUNTERED AT THE PRINCESS BAR...
...BEFORE HE DISRUPTS ANY MORE OF MY ACTIVITIES.
THE MAN'S HISTORY, Mr. ROCHE.
SPLENDID.
ONCE HE IS ELIMINATED, WE CAN THEN DEAL WITH THIS UPSTART TIGER, WHO PRESUMES TO CHALLENGE ME.

PRINCESS BAR'S A NICE SORT'A PLACE--
--BUT THEY GOT THE WILDEST WAY O' MAKIN' A CUSTOMER FEEL WELCOME.
SOME-THIN' I SAID?
DAVIS CHAPEL'S A FRIEND.
A FORTNIGHT AGO, HE DISAPPEARED.
NOW YOU SHOW, TOSSING HIS NAME AROUND.
I WANT AN EXPLANATION.
PRETTY RUDE ATTITUDE, BUB--
--CONSIDERING HOW I SAVED YOUR HIDE TONIGHT...
... FROM THE LOCAL CRIMELORD'S STRONGARM PUNKBOYS.
IF YOU'RE A FRIEND, THE PLACE IS YOURS.
IF NOT, ALL BETS ARE OFF.
FAIR ENOUGH.
I FOUND CHAPEL IN THE DESERT.
HE'D BEEN TORTURED, BY AN EXPERT.
THOSE WOUNDS, AN' EXPOSURE, FINISHED HIM.
HE ASKED ME TO RETURN THIS KEEP-SAKE.
THIS CAMEO'S THE LADY THIS PLACE IS NAMED AFTER, AND HER PARTNER.
SHE'LL BE GLAD TO GET IT.
BUT I GET THE FEELING, CHUM...
...YOU'RE NOT TELLING EVERY-THING.
I'M NOT.
BUT THAT'S MY BUSINESS.
SUIT YOUR-SELF.
YOU WANT TO MAKE A PLAY, BUB...
...BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES.
HE'S TEMPTED.
IT'S IN HIS EYES AN' STANCE AN' SCENT...
NOT A MAN TO BACK OFF FROM A CHALLENGE.
BE AN OKAY SCRAP, TOO-- IF IT WAS FAIR.

BUT FOR A NORMAL HUMAN BEING--NO MATTER HOW TOUGH-- AGAINST ME, AIN'T NO SUCH WORD AS FAIR.
MAYBE O'DONNELL REALIZES THAT.
SMART FELLA.
OKAY, CHUM-- I'LL TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD. FOR NOW.
YOU'VE IMPRESSED O'DONNELL, STRANGER.
THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN OFTEN.
AND IMPRESSED ME, TOO.
THAT HAPPENS EVEN LESS.
I'M SAPPHIRE.
IT'S THE OLDEST OFFER IN THE BOOK, FROM THE KINDA WOMAN WHO MAKES IT ALMOST IRRESISTIBLY TEMPTING.
BUT THEN...
FIGURE IN THE DOORWAY--
--SOMETHIN' AWFULLY FAMILIAR ABOUT IT--
--WATCHIN' ME!
OUR EYES CROSS FOR ALL OF A SPLIT-SECOND...
...BUT SHE KNOWS SHE'S BEEN SPOTTED.
VERY SHARP. VERY WARY.
I'M CURIOUS--
--SO I FOLLOW.
NO SIGN OF HER--
... BUT THAT'S NO PROBLEM...
...FOR A MUTANT...
... WITH PARAHUMAN, ULTRA-KEEN SENSES...
GOT HER!
CLEAR AS MOUNTAIN AIR.
BUT AGAIN, A NAGGING FAMILIARITY.
A SCENT I'VE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.

QUICKER I CATCH THE LADY, QUICKER THE MYSTERY'LL BE SOLVED.
SO. OFF I GO.
BY NATURE-- UNLIKE MY NAMESAKE, WOLVERINE--
--I'M A HUNTER.
CITY OR COUNTRY...

...MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.
IN THE END...

...I ALWAYS NAIL WHATEVER I'M AFTER.
NICE RUN, DARLIN'--
--BUT IT'S OVER.
No!
HOW'S ABOUT YOU AN' ME...
...HAVE OURSELVES A CHAT--?!

I SPOOKED HER WHEN I LANDED.
No!
BUT THERE'S NO FEAR NOW. IN VOICE OR STANCE.

JUST RAGE AN' DEFIANCE, SHE WON'T BE TAKEN WITHOUT A FIGHT.
SHE LEARNS THE HARD WAY...
OHWH!
SOK
...THAT HITTING MY VIRTUALLY UNBREAKABLE, ADAMANTIUM-LACED BONES IS THE NEXT BEST THING...

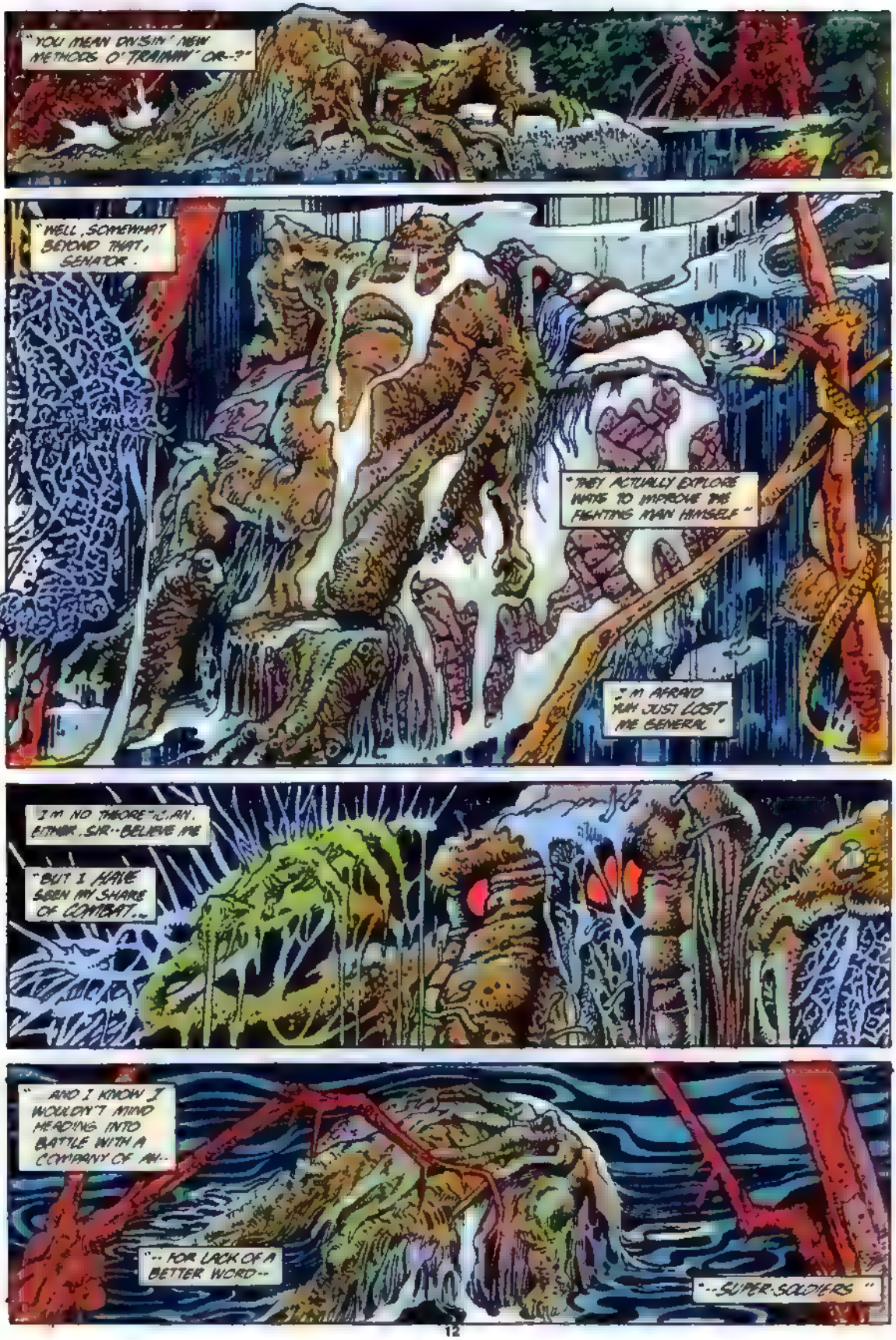
...TO PUNCHIN' STEEL.
STOP IT, GIRL!
I DON'T MEAN YOU ANY HARM!
YOU KEEP STRUGGLIN'. YOU'LL ONLY HURT YOURSELF!
I SWING HER INTO THE STREET LIGHT, FOR A DECENT LOOK AT HER FACE.

AND DISCOVER WHY SHE'S SO FAMILIAR.
YOU?!?
I KNOW YOU!
JESSAN HOAN!!
NEXT ISSUE
The GALS!

THE MAN-THING
ELEMENTS OF TERROR-CHAPTER II
FIRST WITNESS
"IF, GENERAL SELBERT, THE PURPOSE OF THE SALE WAS TUH OPEN A CHANNEL TUH MODERATES IN THE LATVERIAN GUMMERNMENT--
"--WHY WERE THE WEAPONS MARKED UP 200 TO 900 PERCENT?
"IS THAT ANY WAY TUH MAKE FRIENDS?"
MY UNDERSTANDING, SENATOR, WAS THAT ANY RESIDUAL FUNDS WOULD BE FUNNELED BACK INTO THE PROJECT--
--TO COVER ITS EXPENSES AND SUPPORT ITS ANCILLARY OPERATIONS
AS I'VE TESTIFIED, NONE OF THE PLAYERS PARTICIPATED IN ANY PROFITS.
UH-HUH. NAOW, THESE "ANCILLARY OPUHRATIONS" INCLUDE THUH ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITY YOU SPOKE OF YESTUHDAY, IS THAT CORRECT?
YES, SIR
HOWEVUH, THE TRANSFERS FROM THE SWISS BANK ACCOUNT WERE MADE TO A BANK IN COLOMBIA
THAT'S CORRECT, ALSO, SENATOR WYCOMBE
RATHUH A STRANGE PLACE FO' CONDUCTIN' ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITY, ISN'T IT?
NOT AT ALL, SENATOR IF YOU'RE ALSO AFTER THE SUPPLIERS.

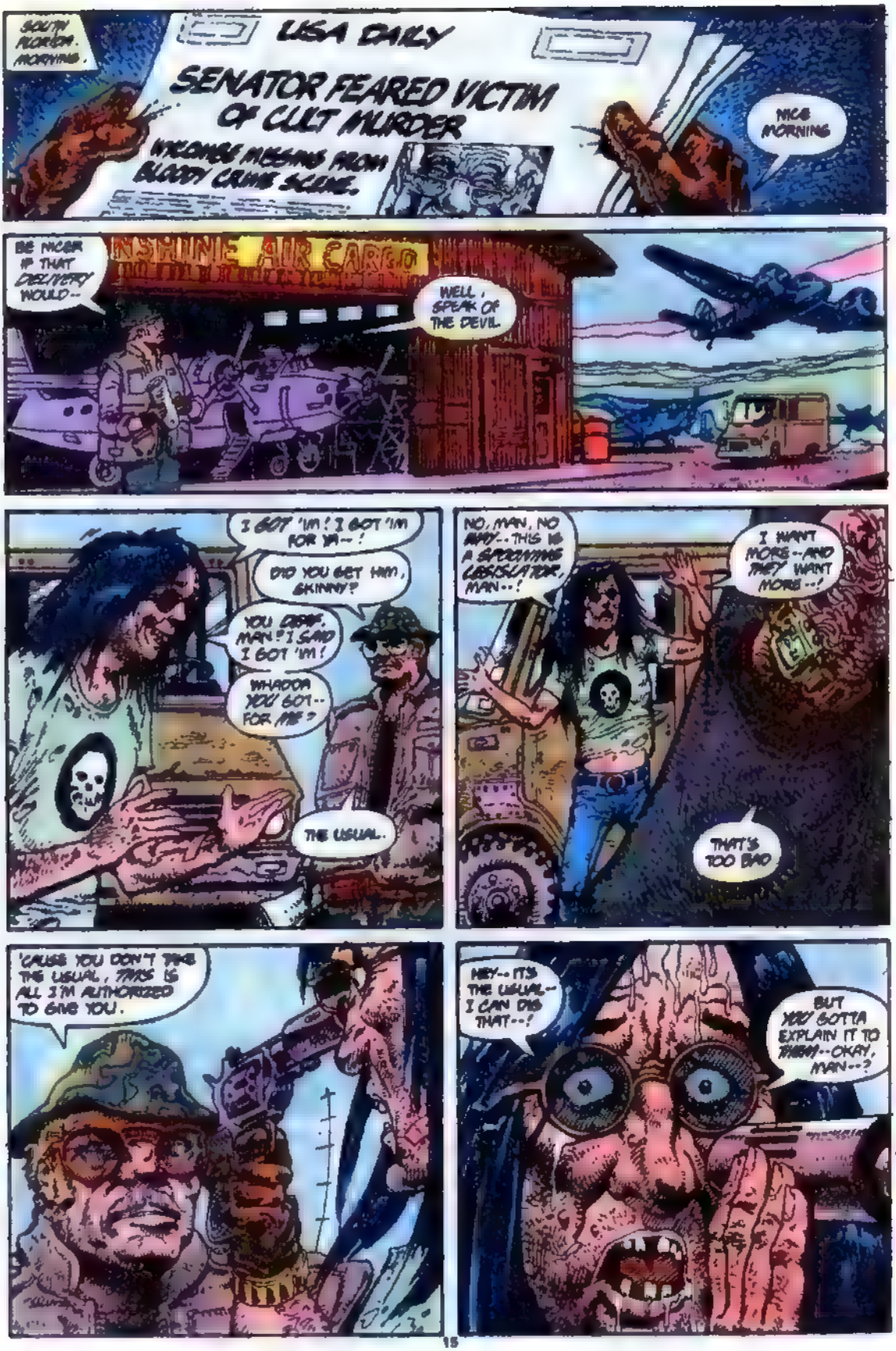
"HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN, SIR, THAT MORE MONEY PASSED THROUGH THE SWISS ACCOUNT -- AFTER THAT ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE?"
TO STREET
"SURELY YO' NOT SUGGESTIN' THIS ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITY TURNED A PROFIT?
"FRANKLY, SALVATOR, IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME
"COLONEL CHOMTE AND HIS PEOPLE CAN BE HIGHLY RESOURCEFUL."
Parking Area
"OH, MAN! THIS ISN'T AN ACCUSATION, GENERAL, BUT ISN'T IT MO' THE QUESTION...
"...MO' PROFITS TO DERIVE FROM THE SALE OF ILLICIT DRUGS?"
"SALVATOR, AS I'VE INDICATED, I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE OPERATION...
ARK
EXIT
"...BUT I ASSURE YOU...
"...NEITHER I NOR COLONEL CHOMTE WOULD CONDONE THE SALE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS."

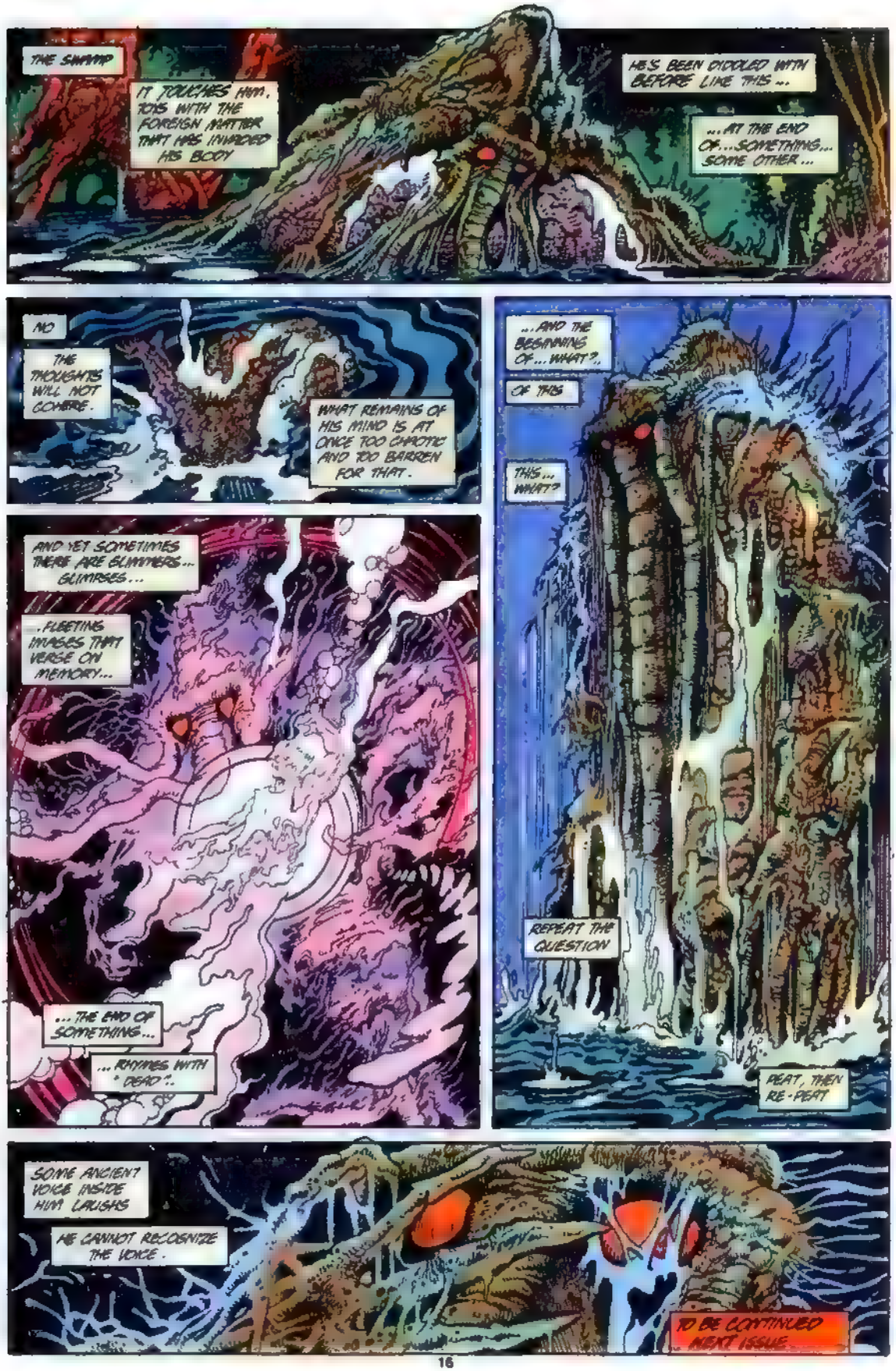
"WHOM, XO, AMBLARK WITH THE FREEDOM SCIENCE STUDIES INSTITUTE OUT IN CALIFORNIA, CORRECT?"
"YES."
FREEDOM SCIENCE STUDIES INSTITUTE
"IN FACT, XO, ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES."
"I AM."
"AND WHAT IS THIS INSTITUTE?"
"FSSI IS DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF GLOBAL SURVIVAL STRATEGIES AND THE PROMULGATION OF DEMOCRACY."
"THEY IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND SEEK SOLUTIONS."
"SO THEIR WORK IS WHOLLY THEORETICAL. IS THAT CORRECT?"
"NOT WHOLLY, SENATOR. WITH THE AID OF PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS, THEY ATTEMPT TO FUND SOME OF THE SOLUTIONS THEY FORMULATE."
"WHAT ABOUT MILITARY RESEARCH, GENERAL? DOES FSSI DO THAT SORT OF THING?"
"IF YOU MEAN HARDWARE, SENATOR--NO. THEY DON'T DESIGN OR EVEN PROPOSE WEAPONS."
"THEY DO, HOWEVER, EXAMINE WAYS AND MEANS--
"...FOR OPTIMIZING MAN'S ABILITY TO DEFEND HIS FREEDOM."

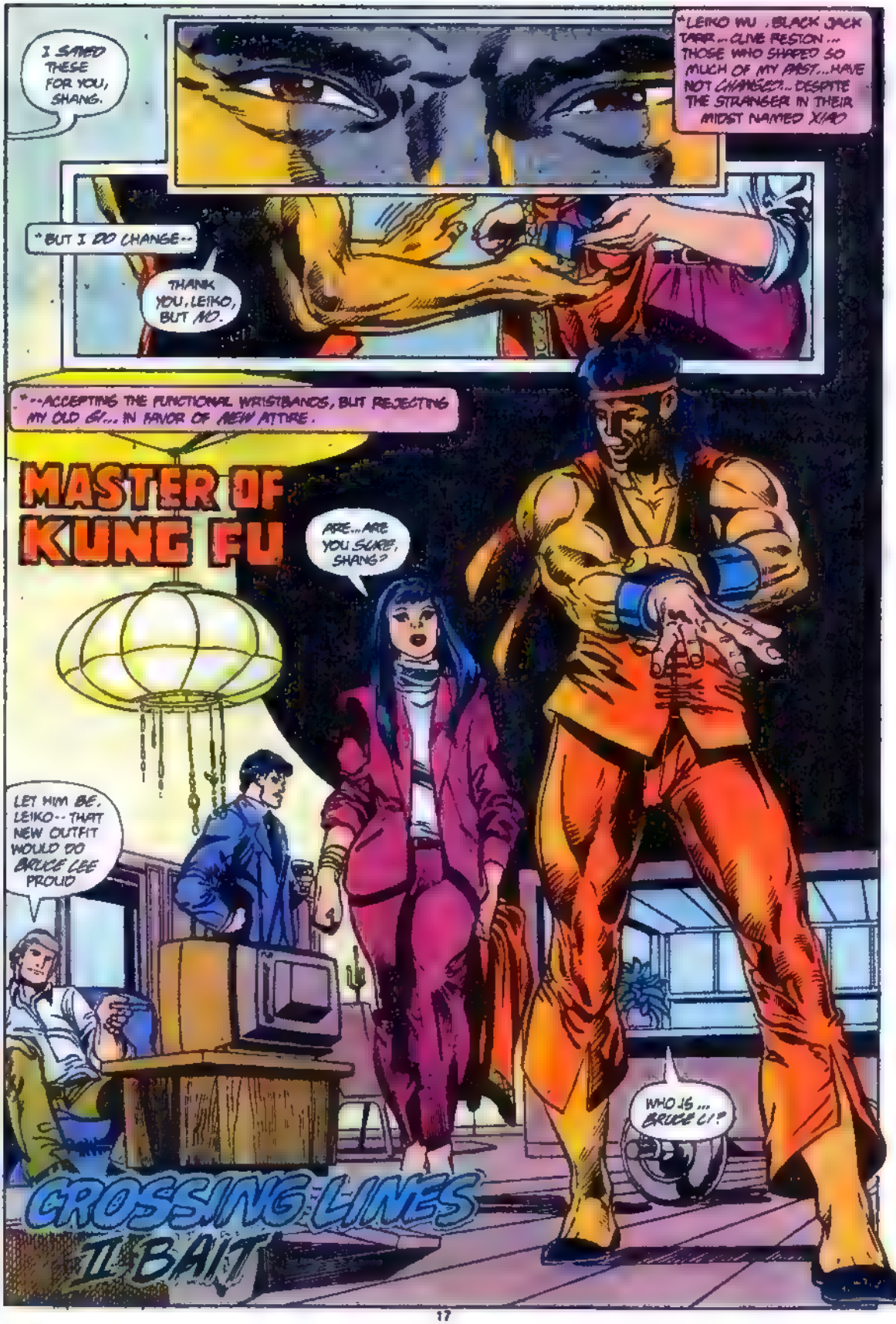

"YOU MEAN DIVSIN' NEW METHODS O' TRAININ' OR--?"
"WELL, SOMEWHAT BEYOND THAT, SENATOR.
"THEY ACTUALLY EXPLORE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE FIGHTING MAN HIMSELF."
"I'M AFRAID YUH JUST LOST ME, GENERAL."
"I'M NO THEORE'TICIAN, EITHER, SIR--BELIEVE ME
"BUT I HAVE SEEN MY SHARE OF COMBAT...
"... AND I KNOW I WOULDN'T MIND HEADING INTO BATTLE WITH A COMPANY OF AH--
"-- FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD--
"--SUPER-SOLDIERS."

GENERAL, I APPRECIATE THE CANDOR YOU'VE DISPLAYED BEFO' THIS COMMITTEE--
--AN' I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A LONG DAY HEAH
SO I'M JUST GONNA ASK ONE LAST QUESTION, AN' THEN LET'S ALL GO HOME
WHAT IS PROJECT: GLAMOUR?
I, UH, DON'T... THAT'S NOT A FAMILIAR TERM TO ME, SENATOR...
I--I DON'T RECALL EVER HEARING OF THAT...!
YO' ABSOLUTELY SURE OF THAT, GENERAL? COULD YUH USE A MOMENT TUH RECOLLECT?
NO...NO I'M SURE...
WELL THAT IS A DURN SHAME
A DURN ONE
'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW, EITHER, YET.. AND I SURELY HOPED YOU' COULD ENLIGHTEN ME
NO FURTHER QUESTIONS, MR. CHAIRMAN
...WIT-FACED PILE OF PIG STRINGS...
...YOU'RE GONE

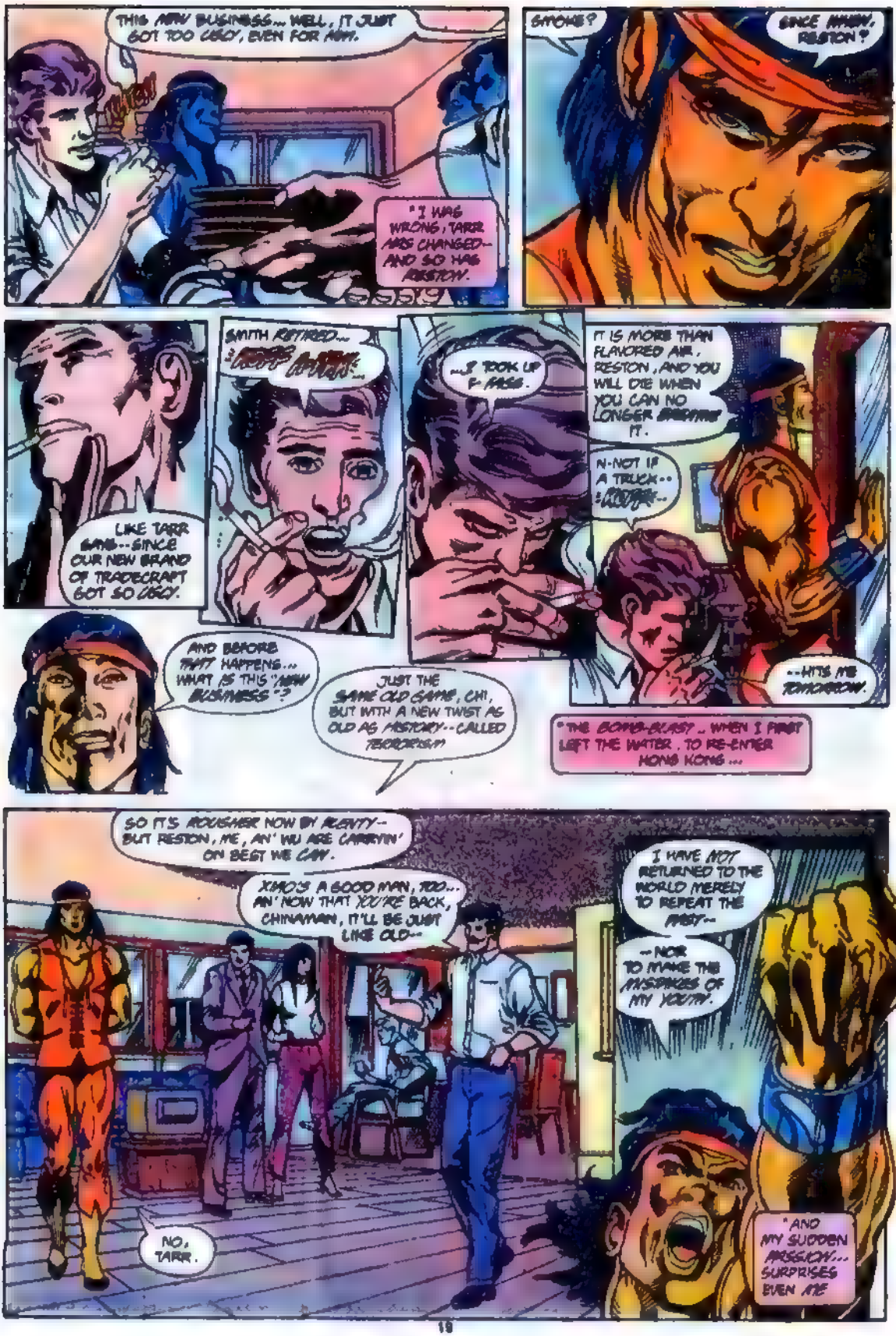
GEORGETOWN SOME HOURS LATER.
...MAH BLOOD RAN COLD WHEN I HEARD THOSE WORDS, MICKEY
I TELL YUH, WE'RE NOWHEAH NEAR THE BOTTOM O' THIS ONE.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE SALLIS BOY, DIDJA? LITTLE BEFORE YOUR TIME
HE SOLD THE PENTAGON ON SOME "SUPER-SOLDIER" SCHEME HE WAS GONNA DEVELOP.
WELL, TED SALLIS DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH HIS FORMULA, AND WE NEVER GOT US OUR "SUPER-SOLDIER"...
...THANK THE GOOD LORD.
BUT SOME BAD IDEAS, AN' I GUESS THIS'S ONE, JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TUH--
--DIE.
HAIL SATAN...
HAIL SATAN...
TWIST AND SHOUT...
HAIL SATAN...
SUNTOP? HELLO...?

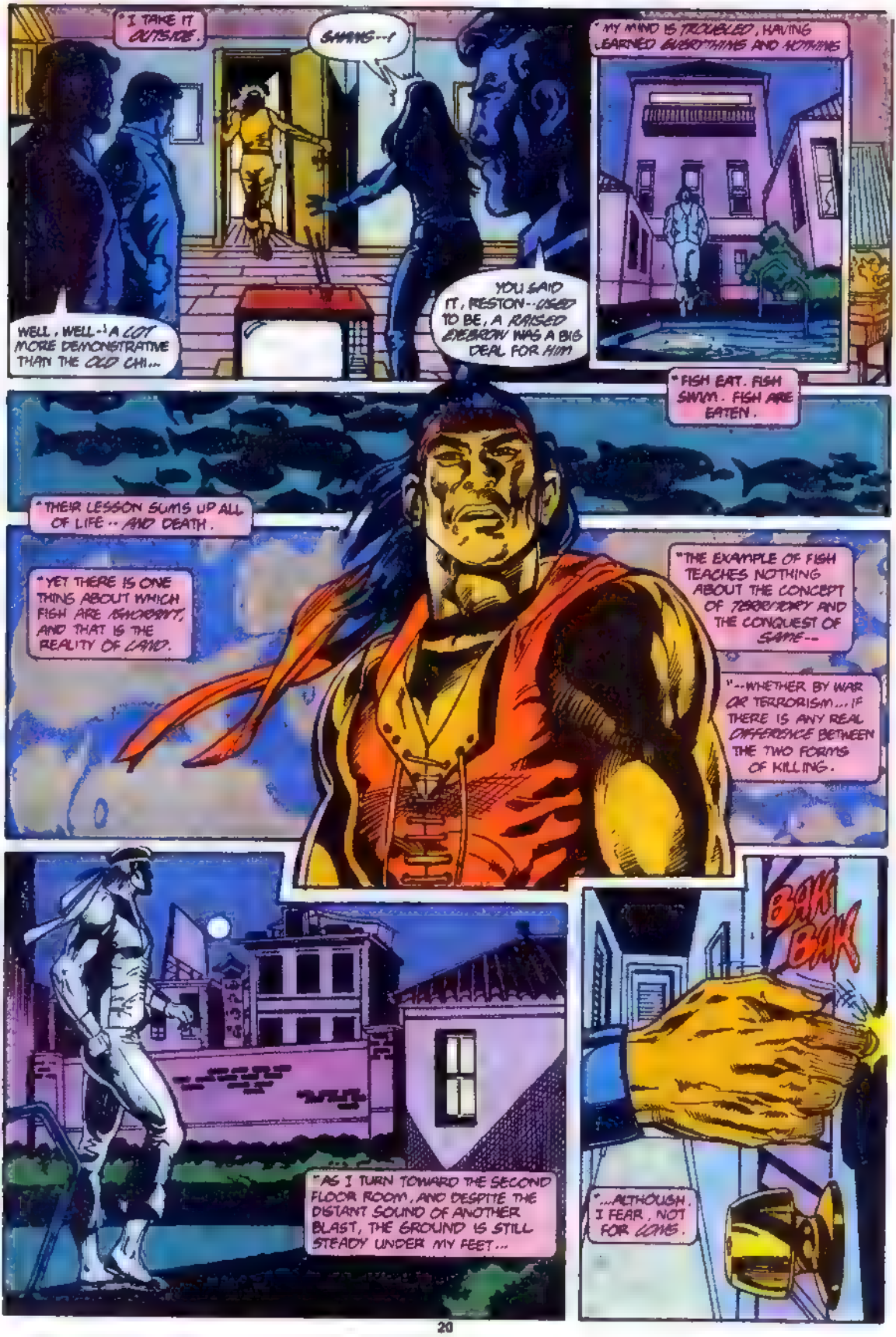

SOUTH FLORIDA. MORNING.
USA DAILY
SENATOR FEARED VICTIM OF CULT MURDER
WITNESS MISSING FROM BLOODY CRIME SCENE.
NICE MORNING
BE NICER IF THAT DELIVERY WOULD--
SUNSHINE AIR CARGO
WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL
I GOT 'IM! I GOT 'IM FOR YA--!
DID YOU GET HIM, SKINNY?
YOU DRIVE, MAN! I SAID I GOT 'IM!
WHADDA YOU GOT-- FOR ME?
THE USUAL.
NO, MAN, NO WAY-- THIS IS A SPEECHMAKE LEGISLATOR, MAN--!
I WANT MORE--AND THEY WANT MORE--!
THAT'S TOO BAD
'CAUSE YOU DON'T TAKE THE USUAL, THIS IS ALL I'M AUTHORIZED TO GIVE YOU.
HEY-- IT'S THE USUAL-- I CAN DIG THAT--!
BUT YOU GOTTA EXPLAIN IT TO THEM--OKAY, MAN--?


THE SWAMP
IT TOUCHES HIM. TOYS WITH THE FOREIGN MATTER THAT HAS INVADED HIS BODY
HE'S BEEN DIDDLED WITH BEFORE LIKE THIS...
...AT THE END OF...SOMETHING... SOME OTHER...
NO
THE THOUGHTS WILL NOT COHERE.
WHAT REMAINS OF HIS MIND IS AT ONCE TOO CHAOTIC AND TOO BARREN FOR THAT.
...AND THE BEGINNING OF... WHAT?..
OF THIS
THIS... WHAT?
REPEAT THE QUESTION
AND YET SOMETIMES THERE ARE GLIMMERS... GLIMPSES...
...FLEETING IMAGES THAT VERGE ON MEMORY...
...THE END OF SOMETHING...
...RHYMES WITH "DEAD"...
BEAT, THEN RE-BEAT
SOME ANCIENT VOICE INSIDE HIM LAUGHS
HE CANNOT RECOGNIZE THE VOICE.
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE


I SAVED THESE FOR YOU, SHANG.
"LEIKO WU, BLACK JACK TARR... CLIVE RESTON... THOSE WHO SHAPED SO MUCH OF MY PAST... HAVE NOT CHANGED... DESPITE THE STRANGER IN THEIR MIDST NAMED XIAO
"BUT I DO CHANGE--
THANK YOU, LEIKO, BUT NO.
"--ACCEPTING THE FUNCTIONAL WRISTBANDS, BUT REJECTING MY OLD GI... IN FAVOR OF A NEW ATTIRE.
MASTER OF KUNG FU
ARE... ARE YOU SURE, SHANG?
LET HIM BE, LEIKO-- THAT NEW OUTFIT WOULD DO BRUCE LEE PROUD
WHO IS... BRUCE LI?
CROSSING LINES
II: BAIT

"DINNER IS STRANGE FISH.
--SO I TOOK OVER AS LEADER OF OUR ORGANIZATION--
--AND SIR DENIS RETIRED TO WATCH BIRDS IN SCOTLAND.
SEE, CHINAMAN, WITH ALL THE BLOODY SCANDALS AN' SKELETONS BEIN' UNCOVERED IN BRITISH INTELLIGENCE, IT GOT SO'S EVEN A8 FELL UNDER SUSPICION--AN' NEVER MIND HE WAS OPERATIN' HIS OWN AGENCY AREELAHOE.
FAR AS MI-6 IS CONCERNED, THE MINUTE YOU'RE BORN BRITISH, YA GOT THE UNION JACK TATTOOED ON YER BACKSIDE.
"XIAO IGNORES TARR'S SPEECH...
"...PREFERRING TO AMUSE HIMSELF...
"...WITH OTHER PURSUITS.
NOT THAT HE MINDED BEIN' FORCED OUT...
HE LIVED TO OPPOSE YOUR FATHER, CHINAMAN--AN' WHEN THAT BLOODY WELL SCREECHED TO A HALT, THE HEART JUST SEEMED TO GO OUT OF HIM.
HE AIN'T A YOUNG MAN, Y'KNOW, AN' HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO OTHER TIMES.
OH. HIS BRAND O' TRADECRAFT WAS DEADLY ENOUGH, AND DECEITFUL ENOUGH, AS YOU WELL KNOW... BUT STILL, HE WAS USED TO SOME RULES.
"TARR'S VOICE HAS GROWN COLD, AND BITTER.


THIS NEW BUSINESS... WELL, IT JUST GOT TOO UGLY, EVEN FOR NEW.
"I WAS WRONG, TARR HAS CHANGED-- AND SO HAS RESTON.
SMOKE?
SINCE WHEN, RESTON?
SMITH RETIRED... KOOF NEW...
...I TOOK UP P- PIPES.
LIKE TARR SAYS--SINCE OUR NEW BRAND OF TRADECRAFT GOT SO UGLY.
IT IS MORE THAN FLAVORED AIR, RESTON, AND YOU WILL DIE WHEN YOU CAN NO LONGER BREATHE IT.
N-NOT IF A TRUCK-- KOOF--
--HITS ME TOMORROW.
AND BEFORE THAT HAPPENS... WHAT IS THIS "NEW BUSINESS"?
JUST THE SAME OLD GAME, CHI, BUT WITH A NEW TWIST AS OLD AS HISTORY--CALLED TERRORISM!
"THE BOMB-BLAST.. WHEN I FIRST LEFT THE WATER. TO RE-ENTER HONG KONG...
SO IT'S ROUGHER NOW BY PLENTY-- BUT RESTON, ME, AN' WU ARE CARRYIN' ON BEST WE CAN.
XIAO'S A GOOD MAN, TOO... AN' NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, CHINAMAN, IT'LL BE JUST LIKE OLD--
I HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THE WORLD MERELY TO REPEAT THE PAST--
--NOR TO MAKE THE MISTAKES OF MY YOUTH.
NO, TARR.
"AND MY SUDDEN PASSION... SURPRISES EVEN ME

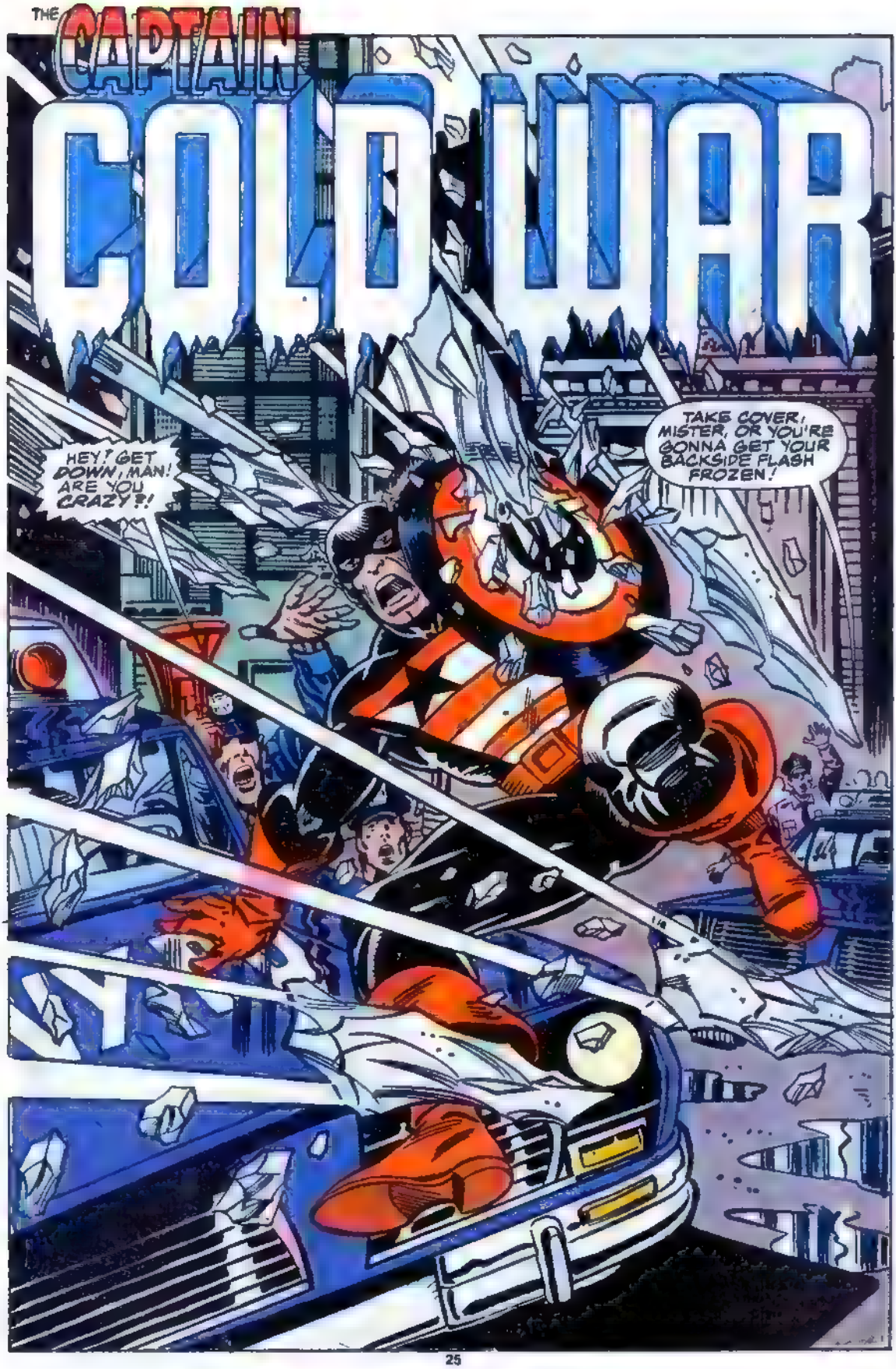

"I TAKE IT OUTSIDE.
SHHHH--!
WELL, WELL--A LOT MORE DEMONSTRATIVE THAN THE OLD CHI...
YOU SAID IT, RESTON--USED TO BE, A RAISED EYEBROW WAS A BIG DEAL FOR HIM
"MY MIND IS TROUBLED, HAVING LEARNED EVERYTHING AND NOTHING
"FISH EAT. FISH SWIM. FISH ARE EATEN.
"THEIR LESSON SUMS UP ALL OF LIFE -- AND DEATH.
"YET THERE IS ONE THING ABOUT WHICH FISH ARE IGNORANT, AND THAT IS THE REALITY OF LAND.
"THE EXAMPLE OF FISH TEACHES NOTHING ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF TERRITORY AND THE CONQUEST OF SPACE--
"--WHETHER BY WAR OR TERRORISM... IF THERE IS ANY REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO FORMS OF KILLING.
"AS I TURN TOWARD THE SECOND FLOOR ROOM, AND DESPITE THE DISTANT SOUND OF ANOTHER BLAST, THE GROUND IS STILL STEADY UNDER MY FEET...
BAK BAK
"...ALTHOUGH, I FEAR, NOT FOR LONG.

OH.
AH...
NOT. NOT TONIGHT SHANG.
IN THE MORNING... I'LL EXPLAIN
"THEN IT IS AS I FEARED, AND THE EARTH REELS UNDER ME
"THEY HAVE ALL CHANGED.
" EVEN LEIKO...
"... WHILE I...
"... AM...
"... STILL...
"... HAUNTED...
"... BY THE SAME PAST, CAST INTO THE SAME DARKNESS..

...TO AWAKE THE SAME NIGHTMARE...
...OF SCREAMING DEATH AND--
BLUMP
AHHHHH!
"I ARISE UP, GASPING AND WET, CONFUSED BY THE TIME LOST UNDER WAVES OF DARKNESS
"ANOTHER SOUND--
KLUMP
"--AND I RACE DOWN THE CORRIDOR--
BWAK
--TO LEIKO'S BEDROOM.
KRUK

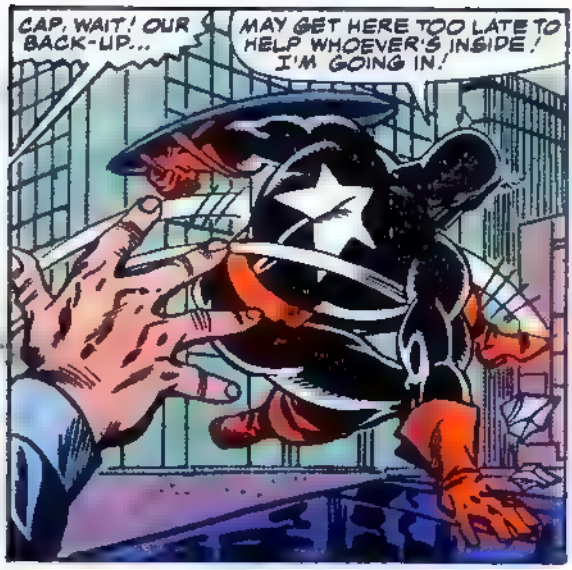
"XIAO CRUMPLES EVEN AS I LEAP"
"THE GUN-"
"--CLATTERS TO THE FLOOR"
"BUT HE DIVES--"
"--ROLLS--"
"--GRABS IT"
"...UNTIL THE LAST ONE LEAVES."
"AND EVEN THEN--"
"--THEY ARE OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE I REACH THE GROUND"
"NOW I CANNOT MOVE..."

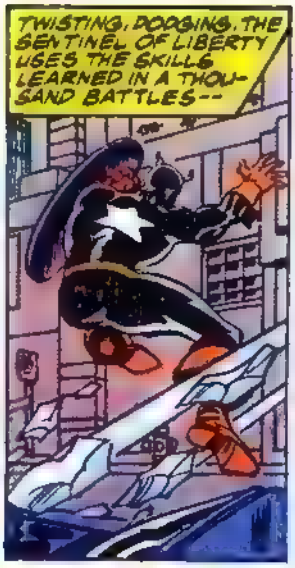
VROOM SKREEE
"A CAR--
"--FISHTAILING AROUND THE CORNER.
THAT WAS MY! THEY SNATCHED MY!!
BRAM BRAM
BRAM
LEIKO'S GONE, CHI!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH XIAO?! IS HE SLEEPIN' ON THE JOB?!
"YES.
XIAO...
...IS...
...DEAD.
"AND LEIKO'S KING.
D-DEAD?
"...WAS NEW."
NEXT ISSUE: FISH


THE CAPTAIN
COLD WAR
HEY! GET DOWN, MAN! ARE YOU CRAZY?!
TAKE COVER, MISTER, OR YOU'RE GONNA GET YOUR BACKSIDE FLASH FROZEN!

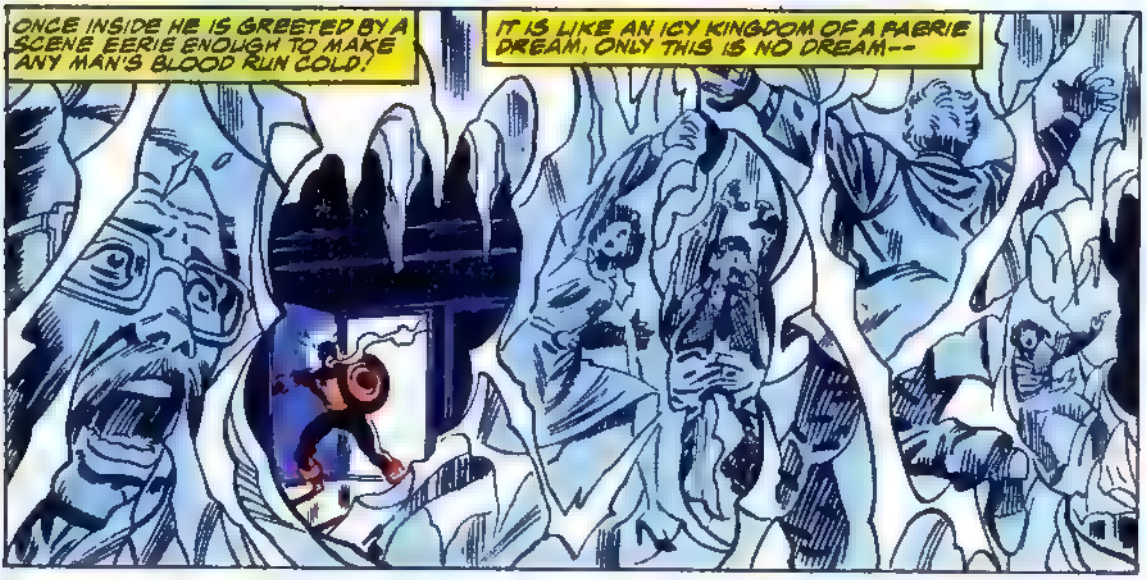
THAT'S MORE LIKE ...SAY--I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA, AREN'TCHA?
WHAT'S WITH THE WEIRD COSTUME, CAP?
LONG STORY! FOR NOW, JUST CALL ME... THE CAPTAIN! AND FILL ME IN--WHAT'S WITH THE COLD WAVE?
NOT SURE EXACTLY! SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT AT THE NEW YORK CENTER FOR CRYOGENICS! WE GOT THE CALL--SOME OF THE WORKERS GOT OUT...
...OTHERS DIDN'T. EVERY TIME WE TRY TO GET CLOSE TO THE BUILDING, THOSE ICICLES START FLYIN'!
WE CALLED FOR BACK-UP BUT THIS IS A KINDA UNUSUAL SITUATION.
SO I SEE. AND YOU WEREN'T SURE IF THIS IS JUST SOME MALFUNCTION OF THE EQUIPMENT ...OR IF SOMEONE MALICIOUS IS BEHIND IT.
IN EITHER CASE, I FEAR FOR THE EMPLOYEES!
AND WHERE THERE IS THE EMOTION OF FEAR--
--THERE IS THE FEAR EATER!
AHHH! I CAN FEEL THE TERROR EMANATING FROM WITHIN THE BUILDING...AND WITHOUT!
SURELY I SHALL FEAST WELL THIS DAY!
RECENTLY I INVADED THE BEING OF THE SILVER SURFER IN SEARCH OF UNIQUE FORMS OF FEAR TO QUELL MY HUNGER.
BUT HE CONQUERED HIS FEAR AND THUS DROVE ME OFF!
ALTHOUGH NOT BEFORE I LEARNED OF THE BEINGS OF EARTH WITH THEIR RARE FORMS OF COURAGE--AND RARE TYPES OF FEAR!
THIS HUMANOID IS ONE SUCH BEING! UNSEEN, UNFELT, I WILL ENTER HIM--EXPLOIT HIS FEARS...
...AND DEVOUR THEM!
THAT HE WILL DIE IN THE PROCESS IS NO CONCERN OF MINE!

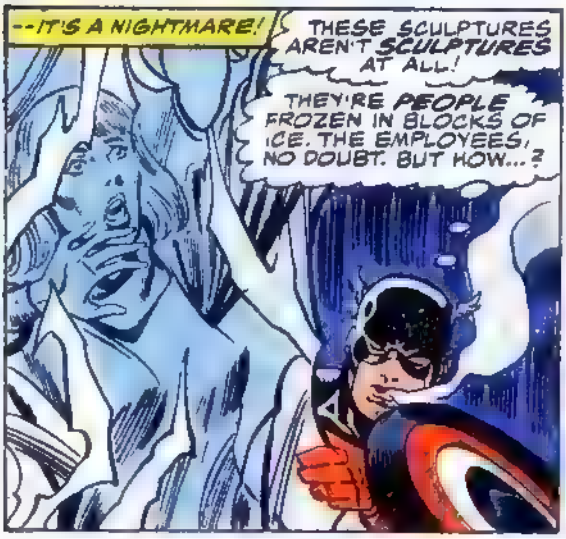
I-I FEEL THIS CHILL ALL OF A SUDDEN!
JUST NOW? IT'S LIKE THE DEAD OF WINTER OUT HERE!
NO! IT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF COLD...LIKE A SENSE OF DREAD!
AND SAFELY SETTLED WITHIN THE BODY OF ITS HOST, THE FEAR EATER "READS" THE MAN KNOWN AS THE CAPTAIN!
YESSSS! THIS IS ONE OF THOSE 'MEN' THE SURFER HAS ENCOUNTERED!
THOUGH HE HAS NOT EXPERIENCED AS MUCH STAR-SPANNING ADVENTURE AS THE SILVER ONE, STILL... HE HAS HAD A FULL AND VARIED LIFE EXPERIENCE.
AND THE COMMON-PLACE FEAR OF DEATH--WHICH I HAVE COME TO DISDAIN--HAS BEEN ALL-BUT-BANISHED FROM HIS EXISTENCE!
THIS IS A MAN WHO HAS FACED HIS FEARS...AND MASTERED THEM!
A RICH REPAST INDEED IF I CAN BUT FIND THE KEY! I MUST READ MORE DEEPLY...
YES. GOOD. GOOD! THERE IT IS, BURIED SO DEEP HE IS NOT EVEN AWARE OF IT HIMSELF!


CAP, WAIT! OUR BACK-UP...
MAY GET HERE TOO LATE TO HELP WHOEVER'S INSIDE! I'M GOING IN!


TWISTING, DODGING, THE SENTINEL OF LIBERTY USES THE SKILLS LEARNED IN A THOUSAND BATTLES--

--TO CHARGE THE SECURED BUILDING!
CRYOGENIC CENTER OF NEW YORK

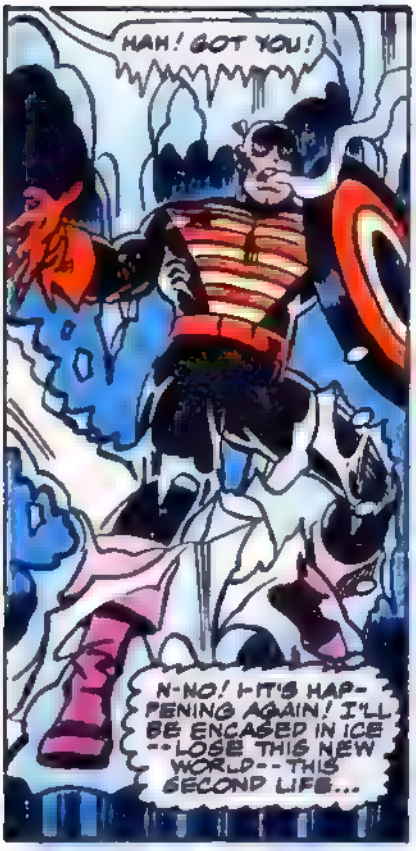

ONCE INSIDE HE IS GREETED BY A SCENE EERIE ENOUGH TO MAKE ANY MAN'S BLOOD RUN COLD!
IT IS LIKE AN ICY KINGDOM OF A FABRIC DREAM, ONLY THIS IS NO DREAM--


--IT'S A NIGHTMARE!
THESE SCULPTURES AREN'T SCULPTURES AT ALL!
THEY'RE PEOPLE FROZEN IN BLOCKS OF ICE. THE EMPLOYEES, NO DOUBT. BUT HOW...?

ONCE AGAIN HE SHIVERS--AND NOT JUST FROM THE COLD!
IT IS THE FEAR EATER BURROWING DEEP WITHIN HIM--STIRRING THE ASHES OF MEMORIES GROWN COLD..

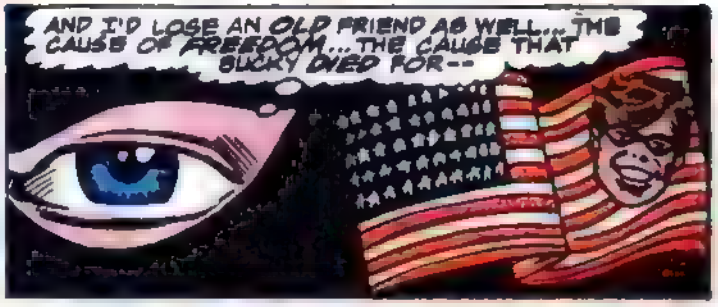
I--I REMEMBER SO CLEARLY... IT WAS DURING WORLD WAR II... BARON ZEMO HAD LAUNCHED HIS DRONE BOMB...
...BUCKY AND I WERE TRYING TO STOP IT...
...BUCKY BARNES...MY PARTNER...MY FRIEND...HE CLUNG TO THE FUSELAGE... TRYING TO DE-FUSE IT...
...I YELLED FOR HIM TO JUMP...
...BUT HE NEVER... GOT THE CHANCE...
BA-KOOM!
...I KNEW... EVEN AS I HIT THE ICY WATER... HE WAS DEAD...
...I...I REMEMBER THE COLD... IT HURT FOR A MINUTE... THEN I SLEPT...
...THEY TELL ME I WAS FROZEN ALIVE... THAT I DRIFTED...
...WAS WORSHIPPED... BY ESKIMOS... AN ICE GOD... TILL SUB-MARINER INADVERTENTLY FREED ME...
...HIT WARMER WATERS... THAWED ME... AND ULTIMATELY WAS RESCUED BY... THE AVENGERS!
THEY BECAME MY NEW ALLIES... COMRADES-IN-ARMS ...FRIENDS...

...BUT NOW... I LIVE ON .. AN ANACHRONISM... IN A COLD UNFEELING MODERN WORLD... SO COLD...
...NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I FEARED THE COLD... UNTIL NOW!
AND THAT FEAR OF THE COLD GRIPS HIS HEART AND STILLS HIS LIMBS...
AND AS HE GIVES IN TO HIS FEAR--
--THE FEAR EATER FEASTS!
AH--SO GOOD! BUT HE IS NOT YET IN TOTAL ROUT! THIS ICY ENVIRON IS BUT THE RESULT OF A MECHANICAL MISHAP--
--BUT USING MY POWERS, I CAN ANIMATE ONE OF THE FROZEN HUMANS ...MAKE HIM THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FEAR--
--THUS DRIVE HIM OVER THE EDGE!
GO, CAPTAIN-- YOU DARE CHALLENGE THE CHILLING POWER OF COLD WAR?!
WHA-?!
SOME NEW VILLAIN-- LOOKS LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN IRON MAN'S OLD FOE, JACK FROST, AND THE ICEMAN!
AH, BUT I AM FAR DEADLIER THAN EITHER!
ZWAP!
TWIST AND TURN ALL YOU LIKE, CAPTAIN! SOONER OR LATER, I'LL FREEZE YOU SOLID!
THUNG!
AND ONCE I DO, YOUR BODY WILL BECOME THE DECORATIVE CENTERPIECE OF MY KINGDOM--
--A FROZEN KINGDOM THAT WILL SWELL TO ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE PLANET, WITH PEOPLE LIVING... AND DYING... AT MY WHIM!


HAH! GOT YOU!
N-NO! I-IT'S HAP-PENING AGAIN! I'LL BE ENCASED IN ICE --LOSE THIS NEW WORLD--THIS SECOND LIFE...

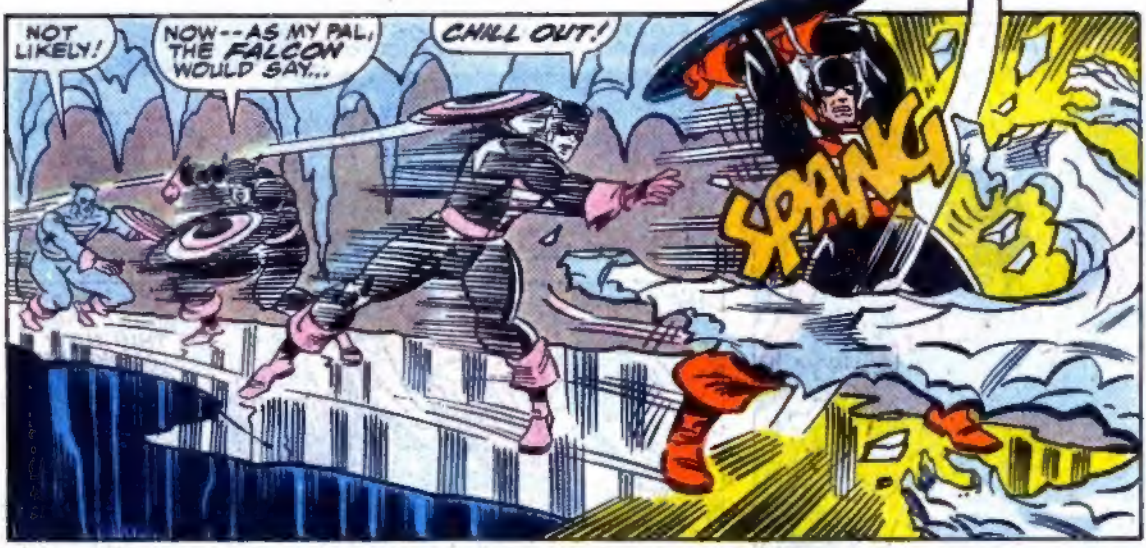
BUT THEN I'LL HAVE LOST MY NEW ALLIES... NEW FRIENDS...

AND WITHIN...
WHAT'S THIS?! INSTEAD OF SUCCUMBING... THE ARRIVAL OF THIS NEW THREAT IS MAKING HIM RESIST... FIGHT BACK!


AND I'D LOSE AN OLD FRIEND AS WELL... THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM... THE CAUSE THAT BUCKY DIED FOR--

I WON'T LET HIM HAVE DIED IN VAIN!
I WON'T!!
SKRAAKK

YOU'VE FREED YOUR-SELF?! IMPOSSIBLE!
IF YOU SAY SO!
I-I'LL TRAP YOU AGAIN!


NOT LIKELY!
NOW--AS MY PAL, THE FALCON WOULD SAY...
CHILL OUT!
SPANG

AND IN OVERCOMING HIS FEAR, THE CAPTAIN OVERCOMES THE FEAR EATER AS WELL!
AAAAAAAA! ONCE AGAIN MY PREY HAS MASTERED HIS FEARS AND DRIVEN ME OUT! THE SWEET TASTE OF TERROR MADE BITTER AND INEDIBLE!
HE WAS NOT AFRAID OF THE COLD PER SE; BUT RATHER BY THE FEAR THAT OTHER INNOCENTS--

--AND THIS "FREEDOM" HE HOLDS SO DEAR, WOULD SUFFER BY HIS FAILURE.
TO CONQUER THAT FEAR HE HAD BUT TO ACT AS HE HAS ALWAYS TAKEN ACTION!

THINGS ARE UNDER CONTROL NOW, OFFICER! YOUR MEN CAN GO IN!
GET THAT, EDDIE! AN ARMY OF COPS HELPLESS HERE, AND ONE GUY GOES IN, COOL AS A CUCUMBER, AND DOES THE JOB!
YEAH! THAT SUPER HERO MUST HAVE ICE WATER IN HIS VEINS!
EH?
AND TICKLED BY THE IRONY OF THESE COMMENTS; THE CAPTAIN FIRST SMILES --THEN LAUGHS...

...A DEEP, CLEANSING LAUGH WHICH BANISHES ALL FEAR...
...AND DRIVES THE STILL UNSATIATED FEAR EATER OFF IN SEARCH OF EASIER PREY!
THE END.

FEATURING
MASTER OF KUNG FU
THE MAN-THING
THE CAPTAIN

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An attempt on Shang-Chi's life darkens the joy of reunion with his former lover, Leiko. Then the appearance of Blackjack Tarr and Clive Reston holds the promise of intrigue and danger. And what part does the mysterious Xiao play in these games of deceit and death . . . ?

THE CAPTAIN "THE COLD WAR" 25
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The Captain is confronted by the Fear-Eater and gets cold feet.

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